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powers. Municipal legislation in large cities has been stirred up to exact a close responsibility in such matters. The lively and public spirited mayor of New York has taken the earliest opportunity to attack the bob-tail car nuisance. A hundred examples could be cited to illustrate the growing tendency. But after all the difficulty is not so much in the lack of law to provide for cases of criminal neglect in the administration of the organized conveniences, which science has given us, as in good natured indifference to its enforcement. A little spurt of indignation is followed by quick forgetfulness, till the occurrence of the next tragedy. This is all owing to the lazy, *laissez faire*, happy-go-lucky disposition of the great American public. It is not disposed to be vigilant in prevention, and to insist on its rights in season and out of season. Our English cousins are far more prompt and severe in their assertion of that sense of individual importance which crystallizes into public spirit. Our own evolution is in the right direction, but we must grow not a little yet before we shall succeed in properly abating the perils and nuisances now characteristics of great cities.

G. T. FERRIS.

IX.

PERIPATETIC LEGISLATURES.

THERE are, I believe, several instances in the histories of the different States of the Union where, at one time or another, there have been dual capitals. Rhode Island alone still divides the honors, narrow as her territory is, and Connecticut has only lately terminated the long fight which resulted in the centralization of her government at Hartford, leaving New Haven to her elm trees and her venerable university. To the average citizen it may seem that one state capital is enough; sometimes even that is one too many. The older and bigger and richer a State grows the more do corrupt influences flourish and concentrate about the seat of government. Why will not some progressive State that has not yet erected costly public buildings, or whose buildings have comfortably fallen in pieces—why will not such a State inaugurate a purely American method and set up a peripatetic capital? The world has studied the art of war more assiduously than any other, and, upon the whole, more successfully. The problem of providing quarters in the field for any number of men is simple and comparatively inexpensive. The legislatures of very few of the States exceed three hundred, all told; but let us say that the total number to be provided for averages one thousand men, the equivalent of a single infantry regiment. Some salubrious location could be selected, perhaps, by the governor a few weeks in advance of the time for meeting. A severe penalty could be set upon the sale of liquors within a mile of the camp. The State could provide tents for quarters, with larger ones for the daily sessions of the two houses and large wall tents for the committees. Rations would be furnished at cost in suitable mess tents. Obviously, under such circumstances, a dangerously powerful lobby would be out of the question. Members would have nothing to do but attend to the public business, finish the season's work and go home as soon as possible. By changing the location of the camp every year, different parts of the State would have the Legislature at their doors in alternation, and a very simple system of badges, passes, and police guards would keep the camp clear of all interlopers. It is safe to say that the duration of the session would be reduced to the time absolutely necessary for the transaction of public business, and that the expense to the State would be reduced by at least two-thirds.

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